

Overview of The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): Child Care Centers

What is CACFP?

CACFP is a federally funded program that provides reimbursement for nutritious meals and snacks served to children under the age of 13 who are in licensed/approved child care settings or children 18 years of age or younger who reside in emergency shelters. The program also serves adults who receive care in nonresidential adult day care centers. In addition, CACFP provides reimbursement for snacks served to youths under the age of 19 (and to individuals regardless of age who are mentally or physically disabled) who participate in certain after-school programs.

Who Can Sponsor CACFP?

Any public or private institution providing nonresidential day care services or emergency residential services to families with children may be eligible to participate in CACFP. As a CACFP sponsor, the governing body must assume final administrative and financial responsibility and the program must operate in compliance with federal regulations 7 CFR 226 and all applicable State policies and procedures. Applicants must attend a full day training session on program requirements, operating procedures and completion of application materials. In addition, a pre-approval site visit will be made to all applicants.

How are Sponsors Reimbursed?

Each month a claim for reimbursement is submitted to the Child Nutrition Unit. The amount of reimbursement is based on both the income eligibility of enrolled children and the

numbers and types of meals and snacks served. Centers receive reimbursement monthly for up to one meal and two supplements (snacks) or two meals and one supplement per enrolled child each day. Shelters can receive reimbursement for up to three meals or snacks per day. At-risk after-school programs may receive reimbursement for up to one snack per day. Centers and shelters may also receive U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities (donated food) or a cash-in-lieu subsidy.

What Type of Meal Service is Required?

Recognizing the important link between diet, health and cognitive development, the CACFP makes an important contribution to a quality child care program. All meals and snacks served and claimed for reimbursement must meet the USDA meal pattern that is based on the nutritional needs of preschool and school age children. The meal pattern consists of various food components for each meal type and establishes the minimum required serving size, according to the age of the child. Only those meals meeting the USDA meal pattern requirements may be claimed for reimbursement.

Requests for further information and questions may be directed to the Child Nutrition Unit at (860) 807-2070.

USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.). Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA-related activity should write to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call 202-720-5964.

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